



MARAD Update



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DOT and MARAD Observe National Maritime Day 2006

By Thom Robinson
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs

Hundreds gathered in the courtyard of U.S. Department of Transportation headquarters in the District of Columbia, May 22, for a special ceremony to begin a day of observances and activities in honor of National Maritime Day 2006.

At the morning ceremony, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta and Acting Deputy Maritime Administrator and Chief Counsel Julie Nelson offered remarks and presented the Merchant Marine Medal for Outstanding Achievement to representatives of the crews and operating companies of the MARAD ships that supported relief and recovery efforts from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



Serving as the event's master of ceremonies was Kevin Krick, MARAD's Senior Advisor for Maritime Policy. The day also marked Mr. Krick's final day of service to MARAD, and he received farewell accolades from both Secretary Mineta and Ms. Nelson during their remarks.

Guest speakers included U.S. Coast Guard Vice Adm. Harvey E. Johnson, Jr., Deputy Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Tom Atkin, Assistant to the Coast Guard Chief of Staff.

Bosun Barbara Shipley, Cape Florida, receiving the Merchant Marine Medal for Outstanding Achievement from Acting Deputy Maritime Administrator and Chief Counsel Julie Nelson and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta.

(Photos by Ella Thomas)

During his remarks, Secretary Mineta thanked merchant mariners who served the nation during World War II, the Korean and Vietnam conflicts and Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The Secretary also recognized the efforts of MARAD's Ready Reserve Force during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita as the fleet staff worked together to quickly move needed supplies to the Gulf Coast region and move "people out of harm's way."

"The Ready Reserve Force ships brought in emergency cargo, generated electricity, helped restore port activities and provided shelter and meals to relief workers," said Secretary Mineta. "Their hard work was nothing short of extraordinary. Teamwork was vital to the effort, and so today, we would like to honor their spirit of cooperation by awarding the Merchant Marine Medal for Outstanding Achievement to 28 seafarers for their leadership following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Through dedication and determination, these men and women came together to give aid to Gulf Coast recovery and rescue, and in doing so helped replace confusion with cooperation and heartbreak with hope."

After his remarks, Secretary Mineta and Ms. Nelson presented more than two dozen individual awards to mariners being recognized. Each awardee was acknowledged by enthusiastic applause and best wishes from scores of smiling audience members.

The ceremony concluded with the traditional sounding of eight bells, signifying the end of one watch aboard ship and the beginning of another.

Other National Maritime Day 2006 activities included a special mass and Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Seafarers at Saint Dominic Church in the District. Events conducted at the Washington Navy Yard included a Propeller Club/King's Point Alumni Club joint luncheon, a wreath-laying ceremony, the National Maritime Day Forum and a reception, both sponsored by the North American Maritime Ministries Association.



Left to Right: Billy Greer, MARAD Central Region; Bob Babin, MARAD Central Region; First Engineer Tom Gabriel, Cape Knox; Dee Varshney, MARAD Central Region; and Capt. Samuel Stephenson, Sirius at headquarters before the ceremony.

MARAD Bids Fair Winds and Following Seas to John Jamian

**By Ella Thomas
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs**



(Photo by Fred Hoffmann, James River Reserve Fleet)

Deputy Maritime Administrator John Jamian at the helm of a tug boat at the James River Reserve Fleet before a news conference announcing the departure of the 50th and 51st ships for disposal. Curt Michanczyk, Office of Ship Disposal, to the left of Jamian.

On May 1, 2006, Former Deputy Maritime Administrator John Jamian resigned from his post at MARAD to return to private industry. He had served at MARAD since May 2003, after being appointed to the position by President George W. Bush.

Mr. Jamian said his most important accomplishment while at MARAD was building the agency's response to the stricken Gulf Coast after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. He blazed a new trail by leading MARAD and its Ready Reserve Force in an unprecedented response to a domestic catastrophe.

"We had to build a lightning-speed response through MARAD's national security office because the victims in the Gulf Coast were not in a position to wait. There was an incredible group of MARAD employees from Headquarters and the regions that made all of this possible," said Jamian.

Jamian said he hopes MARAD will continue to improve its national disaster and security responses, become more involved

in assisting the U.S. ports system to handle both congestion and environmental issues and that the Office of Economics and Data Analysis becomes better equipped to produce true maritime economic statements. "I hope all our hard work with SEA 21 will serve as a foundation for new programs to meet the needs of the industry. The industry is changing at a very rapid pace. MARAD must be able to adapt these changes to provide valued service."

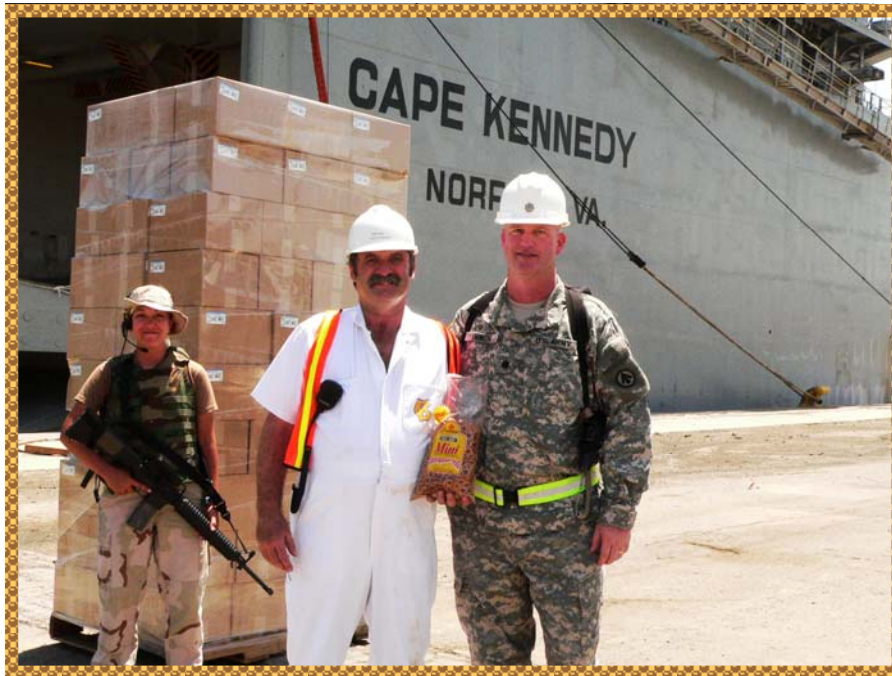
Mr. Jamian has been appointed to lead and develop the newly-formed Seaway Great Lakes Trade Association, with offices in Detroit and the District of Columbia.

Mr. Jamian's role as president of the not-for-profit organization will be to promote cooperation and responsible use of the U.S. Great Lakes' and St. Lawrence Seaway's environmental and commercial resources.

A Twisted Story: Pretzels to the Troops

Operation Support ~ Pretzel began with a simple question and ended with a shipload of pretzels headed for the Middle East on a MARAD ship. “Big John” Ulrich, a Korean War veteran of Berks County, Pa., was talking to a U.S. Army reservist on leave from duty in Iraq. Ulrich asked the reservist what the locals could do to support the troops, and the answer was, “PRETZELS! The locals miss pretzels!”

Ulrich began working to raise funds—and pretzels—from the community, and got the support of schoolchildren, businesses, service groups, churches and The Bachman Company. The company offered to match case for case anything that Ulrich raised in funds in order to purchase pretzels. Finally, they were ready to go with a shipment of more than 72,000 bags of pretzels to go out as a surprise gift for the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program in Iraq.



Captain Hasson of the MV Cape Kennedy and Lt. Col. Bunch of the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command in Kuwait stand in front of 1 of 25 pallets of pretzels that arrived aboard the Cape Kennedy for distribution to the troops in Iraq.

Here's where the MV *Cape Kennedy* entered the picture. The MARAD-owned ship made five previous trips to the Middle East carrying supplies and materiel to support U.S. Armed Forces. It was the *Cape Kennedy*, fresh from supporting hurricane recovery efforts in its home port of New Orleans, that got the assignment to carry the pretzels—along with vehicles, supplies and materiel—to the Middle East. The initial request to ship the pretzels was made by The Bachman Company to MARAD. MARAD through the *Cape Kennedy*'s ship manager, Keystone Shipping, ensured the pretzels were stocked in the ship's stores and delivered from Norfolk, Va., to Kuwait.

The pretzels were unloaded at Ash Shuaybah, Kuwait, and treated like the precious cargo they were. The head of the Army Reserve Center in Reading, PA, told Ulrich he didn't think anything of this magnitude had ever been done as a morale booster for the troops.

First North American Short Sea Shipping Conference Held in Vancouver, British Columbia

**By Michael Gordon
Office of Domestic Shipping and Ports**

MARAD, in partnership with the marine transportation agencies of Canada and Mexico, sponsored the first North American Conference on Short Sea Shipping from April 18 to 20, in Vancouver, British Columbia.



Left to Right: Cesar Patricio Reyes Roel, General Coordinator on Ports and Merchant Marine, and Secretariat of Communications and Transport, Mexico; Kristine Burr, Assistant Deputy Minister, Transport Canada; and John Jamian, Deputy Maritime Administrator, MARAD

The conference was attended by 288 industry executives from all three nations, and was a result of further coordination among Canada, the United States and Mexico following the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation on Short Sea Shipping in 2003. The event represented the fulfillment of a commitment among the three nations under the Security and Prosperity Partnership Accord of 2005, promoting the further development of water-based transportation services and mitigate surface transportation congestion in North America.

Keynote speeches were presented by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta, Canadian Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities Lawrence Cannon and, representing Mexico, Cesar Patricio Reyes, General Coordinator on Ports and Merchant Marine and Secretariat of Communications and Transport. All three encouraged greater collaboration and cooperation in the research and development of short sea shipping opportunities in the North American corridor.

The conference was highlighted by the signing of a declaration providing for a general framework for the establishment of the North American Short Sea Shipping Steering Committee, through which the three countries can continue to enhance their trilateral cooperation and develop insights into the challenges associated with an integrated short sea shipping strategy.

At the conclusion of the conference, Reyes offered to chair the next short sea shipping conference in Mexico in 2008.

MARAD Update

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